

2013

Project Oasis: An Urban Garden in Worcester

Brian Bach

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Lubna Hassan

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Mervyn Larrier

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Aaron McGinnis

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Andrew Santon

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/gps-posters>

Recommended Citation

Bach, Brian; Hassan, Lubna; Larrier, Mervyn; McGinnis, Aaron; and Santon, Andrew, "Project Oasis: An Urban Garden in Worcester" (2013). *Great Problems Seminar Posters*. Book 209.
<http://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/gps-posters/209>

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Problems Seminar at DigitalCommons@WPI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Problems Seminar Posters by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@WPI.



WPI

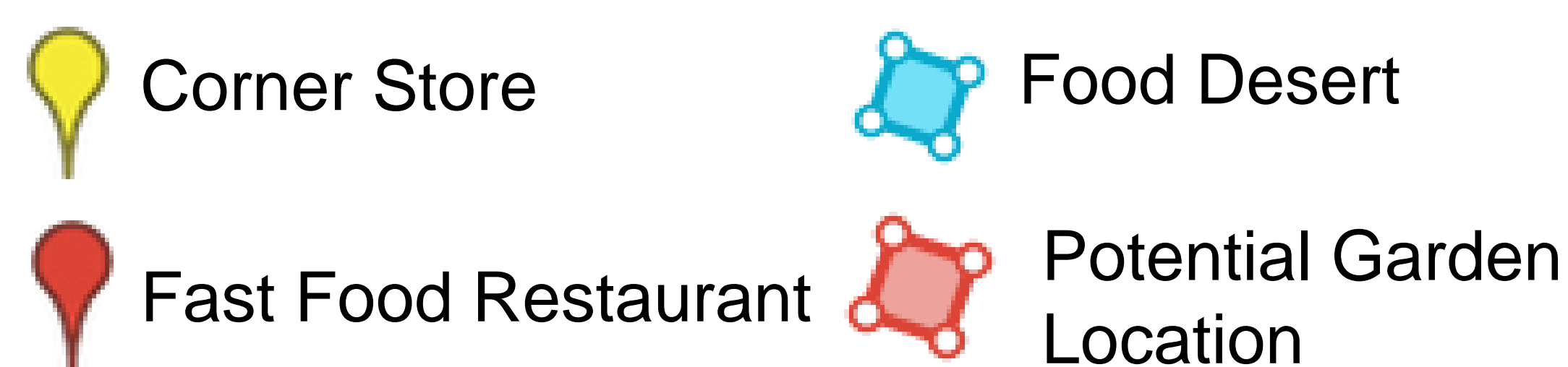
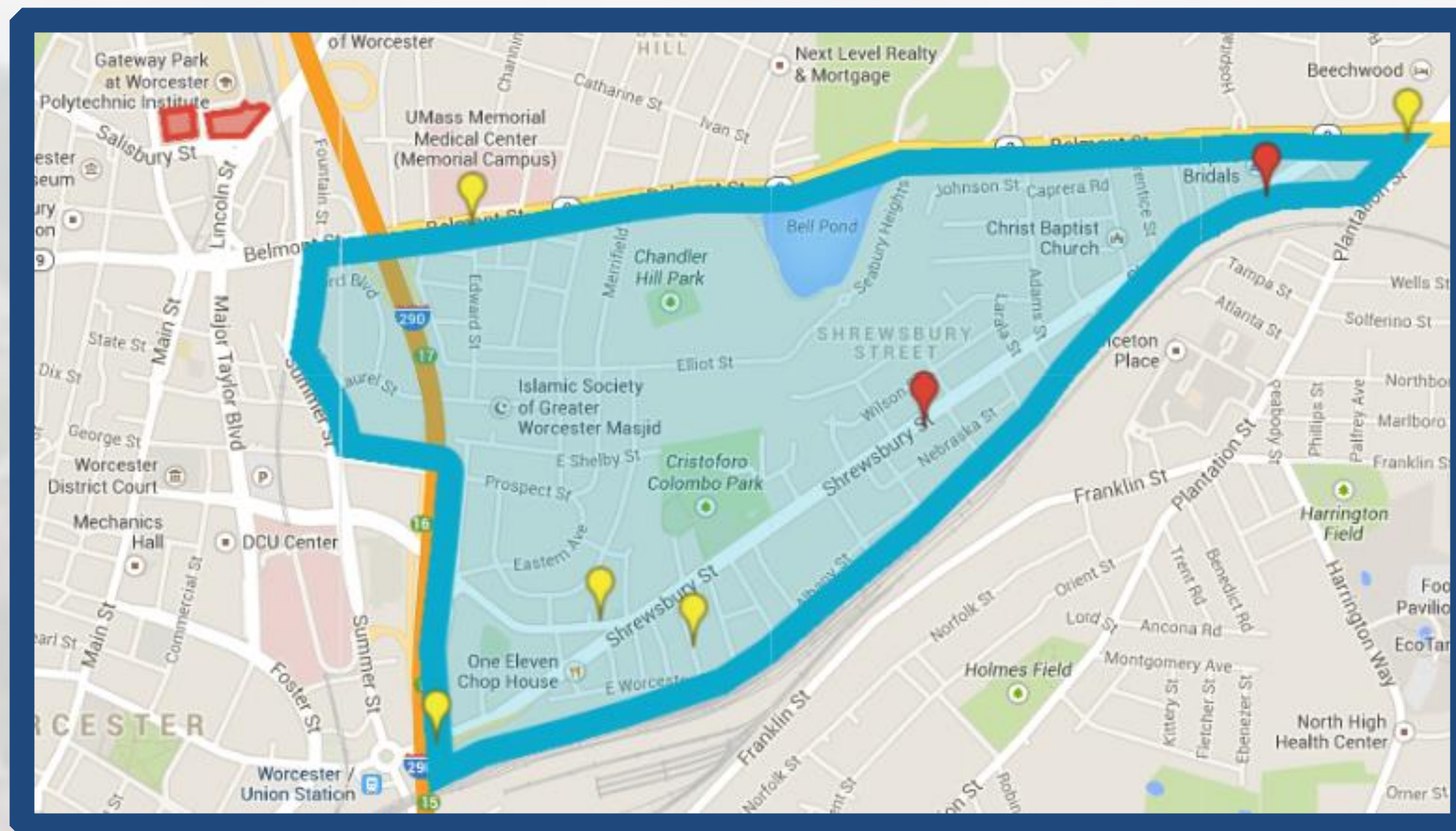
Project Oasis: An Urban Garden in Worcester

Brian Bach, Lubna Hassan, Mervyn Larrier, Aaron McGinnis, Andrew Santos

Problem

Fresh, healthy food options are unavailable for residents living in the Shrewsbury Street Food Desert in Worcester, Massachusetts.

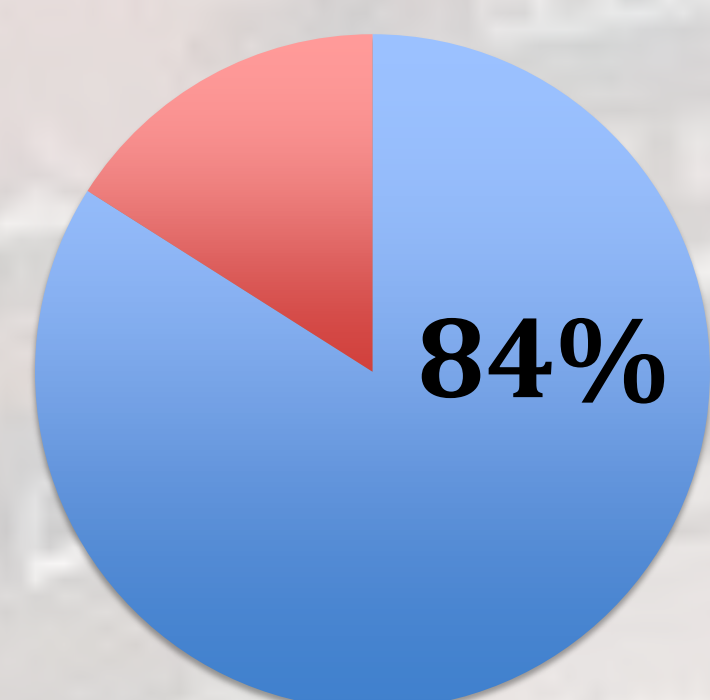
Map of Food Desert



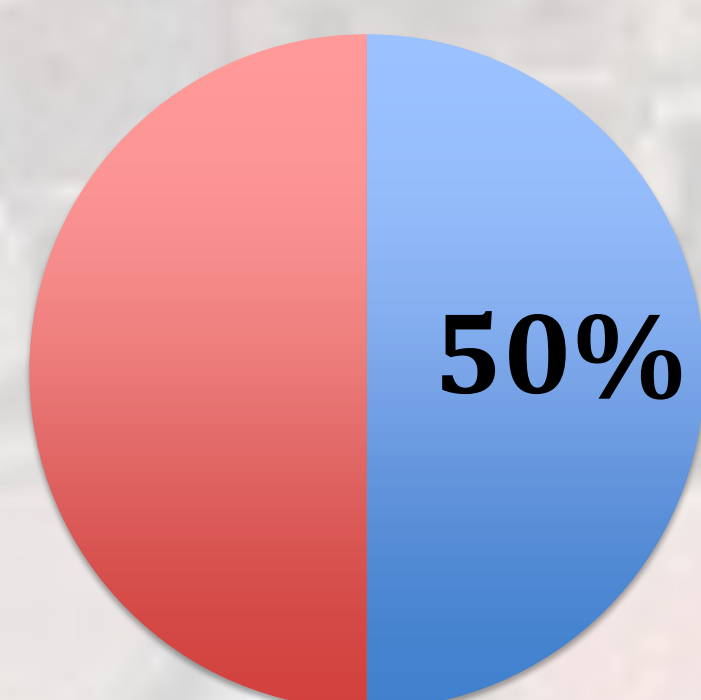
Demographics

Population: 6172 residents

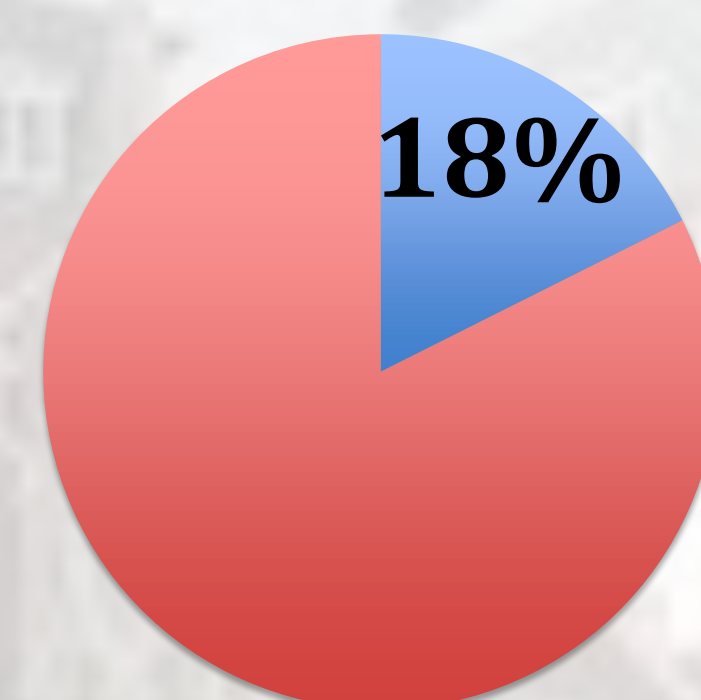
Low-Access to Supermarkets



Low-Income & Low-Access



No Vehicle Access



Solution

Implement an urban garden in a vacant lot located at Gateway Park.

Mechanics



Potential Transformation



Assessment

- Survey residents
- Analyze garden production
- Evaluate corner store progress

Cost Estimates / 5000 ft²

Start-up Costs		Operating Costs / yr	
Item	Price (\$)	Item	Price (\$)
Fencing	4,000	Part-time Farmer	8,400
Soil	3,000	Seeds	2,500
Piping/Hydrant	3,000	Soil Tests	30
Garden Beds	4,000		
Tools/Equipment	1,000		
TOTAL 15,000		TOTAL 10,930	

Benefits

1. Local Community

- Easy access to healthy food
- Improved diet

2. Store Owners

- More customers
- Increased sales

3. WPI

- Pro-sustainability
- Empowers students
- Builds community

References

USDA Food Access Research Atlas.

Starting a Community Garden. (n.d.). Douglas County Health Department. Retrieved from http://www.douglascounty-ne.gov/gardens/images/stories/commgarden/Community%20Garden_Market_ToolKit_3_29_11version%208.pdf

Couët, M. L. Z. (2009). *Strengthening Providence with Community Gardens* (Doctoral dissertation, Brown University).

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b3/North_view_of_a_Chicago_urban_garden.jpg